

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

PREPARING CORN SILAGE

Most farmers pretty well agree that corn should be cut for the silo when the kernels have hardened and become glazed, but while the leaves are still green. At that time, dent varieties will be well suited. When possible, corn should not be allowed to ripen before converting it into silage, because its moisture content is then too low for the silage to pack well, and it is almost certain to mold. On the other hand, if for any reason the crop can be cut at the most favorable period and it is too dry to pack thoroughly, enough water should be added to fully be added to fully make up for the amount lost in ripening. This is not difficult for those who prepared to force a stream of water to the top of the silo into the cut silage as it enters the silo from the blower. Should the crop be so dry that this process will not mix enough water with the silage, more must be forced into it. A few farmers here and there actually put shocked corn fodder into the silo after the ears have been husked out. When such dry fodder is to be ensiled it is well to run a ton of water in for every ton of cut fodder. In making corn stalk silage, great care should be used to get the water uniformly distributed throughout the silage, and a little excess water is more desirable than not enough. Some men are inclined to ensile their corn too early — before the kernels have reached the glazed stage. This is objectionable for two main reasons. First, when corn is cut for silage in the milk stage, it contains about 25 per cent less dry matter per acre than when it is allowed to stand till the kernels have become glazed. Secondly, when the corn is cut too green, the silage has a tendency to become very sour or acid, and thus also lose in palatability. When silage corn is overtaken by frost before the glazing stage, a fairly good quality of feed may still be obtained if the corn is rushed into the silo as soon thereafter as possible. In that case, a considerable amount of water should be run in with the silage.

COMBATING EROSION

In some localities where a great deal of soil washing has taken place, and especially where gullies from six to fifteen or more feet in depth have been washed out, the planting of trees in these gullies is being practiced with wonderful success. One county agent has a number of tree planting demonstrations in his county that are real eye-openers to those who have not seen anything of that sort. One gully that was over 15 feet deep two years ago now supports a growth of poplar trees intermixed with willows. In two years this gully, the banks of which are close to 20 feet apart and the bottom fully 10 feet wide, has already filled in to the extent of two feet. The trees are growing vigorously, and the open gully with its raw sides is taking on the appearance of becoming a useful part of the farm. On another farm with a still larger gully black locusts, willows and some other trees were planted three years ago. While this gully may never fill up to the level of the surrounding ground, it is certain that it will never grow larger, and during the next 10 or 15 years it will produce a lot of valuable fence posts and pulp-wood. The point to this tree planting in deep gullies, especially when done in connection with terracing the surrounding land, is not the usefulness of the wood that may be grown in them, of course, but rather the stoppage for all time of further damage. Planting trees in these washed-out gullies can be done at very little expense for seeding and labor. It is estimated that one man and a boy can plant about 600 seedlings an hour. Thus a few hours of work will put the worst kind of a gully in shape to prevent further increase in size, and actually to transform an ugly-looking place into a spot of beauty and usefulness. This sort of work should be fostered wherever there is need for it. Every farm owner in gullied sections should get busy setting out trees suited for their particular sections. Black locusts are apparently becoming very popular for that purpose. They not only grow rapidly, but they are also exceedingly well adapted to maintain themselves in ground that fills up around their trunks.

PROTEIN ON PASTURE

Does it pay to feed a balanced grain mixture to dairy cows on pasture? That is a question often asked by dairymen, especially in these days of low prices. A great many would say ordinary farm grains will do well enough so long as grass is available in fairly liberal quantities, but is that true? The producing capacity of the cow should be taken into consideration. A high producer needs a balanced grain mixture for the most satisfactory results, and so does a cow that produces only about 25 pounds of fat per month. Here are some actual figures on that point, collected by a member of a cow testing association. In May of this year, he fed grain mixture balanced with linseed meal, and in June he fed the same amount of grain without the use of any linseed meal. The figures show the results as told by the cows themselves. Ten of the highest producers averaged 42.4 pounds of fat in May and only 27.1 pounds in June. Thus, they lost 15.3 pounds, evidently due to the fact that the ration lacked protein. Ten

CAREFUL CULLING PAYS

If every producer of milk would sell all his unprofitable cows, those which scarcely return enough income to pay for the feed they consume, it is estimated that 10 per cent of our dairy cows the country over would be sent to the butcher. That would greatly reduce the amount of dairy products on the market, and thus help to raise prices. In other words, such a culling process would actually increase the income from the dairy industry. The benefit derived from close culling of the dairy herd was strikingly demonstrated by one dairy farmer some time ago when he

of the lower producers yielded an average of 26 pounds of fat per head in May and 22.5 pounds in June. The low producers, therefore, lost only 3.5 pounds of fat due to lack of protein. No figures are needed to show that the high producers paid a very good profit on the investment in linseed meal, while the low producers even paid for the extra protein in higher yield. You can't fool a dairy cow much. She is partial to a well balanced ration, and it pays to supply her with the nutrients in the proper proportions required for milk and fat secretion. However, there is such a thing as supplying a cow with more protein than she needs, and when that is done the excess is wasted.

COOLING MILK

It is much more difficult to reduce the temperature of the creamy layer of milk in the top of a milk can than that in the bottom, and yet it is the top layer that needs the most rapid cooling. The cooling of a can of milk, set in a tank of water, proceeds as follows: The warmer milk in the can that is being cooled, because it is lighter rises to the top along with the fat globules or cream. For the same reason, the warmer water next to the can rises to the top. As the warmer milk rises, it picks up bacteria, so that the top layer soon contains a higher bacterial count than the lower layers. And when a can of milk at 95 degrees F. is put in water at 50 degrees, the water close to the can at once starts rising toward the top, where it tends to spread over the surface. This layer increases until in half an hour a layer two inches deep will be found to be from 10 to 15 degrees warmer than the water at the bottom. This explains why the layer of milk and cream at the top not only contains a larger proportion of bacteria than the lower layers, but also why it is the most difficult to cool. It further explains why the occasional stirring of milk in the can, as well as water in the tank, when the can is first placed therein, brings about more rapid cooling of the milk.

RANGE PARALYSIS

Iowa and the surrounding states have thus far suffered less from range paralysis, a comparatively new poultry trouble, than the Atlantic Coast states. However, it is with us, and flock owners can well do all they can to avoid it. In general the symptoms are as follows: The disease attacks young stock, from four to eight months of age most commonly. A drooping wing or a slight lameness is the first symptom. This is followed by the chick "going down" due to paralysis of one or both legs. Chicks frequently appear perfectly healthy otherwise and if properly fed and watered may live for weeks or months. Rarely do they recover, however. It may affect a few of the bulk of the young flock. This disease does not appear to be directly transmitted from bird to bird as rous or cholera or typhoid is. The disease has been most commonly found in connection with inflammation of the intestines, due to chronic coccidiosis or tape worms. While scientific proof of the connection between range paralysis and one or both of these parasites is lacking, the bulk of the investigators believe the presence of these parasites at least makes it easier for a fowl to get range paralysis. Hence we have an additional reason for trying to raise our chickens free of coccidiosis and worms.

FEED MORE OATS

With larger acreages and abundant yields of oats in many southern states, dairy farmers are finding it economical to use oats in the dairy rations. A standard ration recommended by one experiment station for farm dairy herds is 100 pounds of corn-and-cob meal, or ground shelled corn, or corn meal, or ground barley, or ground wheat; 100 pounds of ground oats; 100 pounds of ground velvet beans in the pod, or wheat bran; 100 pounds of cottonseed meal; 4 pounds of salt. This ration is being changed by many to take 200 pounds of ground oats, omitting the beans or bran. These rations, it is found, are suitable for milking cows and service bulls, but growing heifers over six months old and up to within 10 days of calving time could be fed a mixture composed of 300 pounds of ground oats, or shelled unground oats; 100 pounds of cottonseed meal; 4 pounds of salt. Calves under six months old still on milk may be satisfactorily fed shelled oats as their only grain ration.

FOOT ROT

Healthy feet are essential in the efficient function of dairy cattle. Foot rot is an enemy of healthy feet. It destroys healthy tissue. It causes ugly, painful, obstinate, foul-smelling sores. Filthy stables; low, poorly-drained cow yards; and wet, mucky, stagnant places in fields help foot rot get a foothold. If in any manner, the skin between the toes is broken, the germs hop right in and begin making puss and pain. Begin treatment early — at the first sign of infection. Clean the foot thoroughly with soap and water. Scrub away all dead tissue. Apply a good disinfectant. Put on a bandage. Place the animal in clean quarters. If the infection has reached the under side of the wall of the hoof or has broken out above the hoof wall, call a veterinarian.

culled 11 cows out of his herd of 32 head and sent them to the butcher. As a result of this culling, he put 38,000 pounds less milk and 1,334 pounds less butterfat on the market the year after culling. On the other hand, the 21 cows left in the herd actually returned \$985 more above feed cost last year than the 22 head did the year before. This story of inefficient cows is on old one, yet, since many still continue to maintain a large number of that kind in our herds, it is evident that the story has not yet been told often enough — certainly not too often.

Place of Beauty

Beyond All Words

Almost every one who has seen the Grand canyon has attempted to describe it, in words or in paint; all have failed and will forever fail; high-falutin writing should especially be avoided.

The Grand canyon is a national park (since 1919), through and at the bottom of which flows a river, the Colorado. Geologists tell us (and a geologist, like an astronomer, will say anything) that the action of this river in cutting its way through 100 miles of stone for millions of years has created a canyon, a gorge, a valley, so immense in size and so beautiful in color as to be unlike anything else in the world. I have seen it described as "a

mountain chain reversed" that is to say, if this great work of nature were to be used as a mold and a plaster cast made therein, when it was taken out and set up it would be like a chain of mountains 100 miles long, from one to ten miles wide, and, in places, one mile high; then all you would have to do would be to paint it in every color you could conceive of, and you would have the Grand canyon in reverse. —A. Edward Newton in the Atlantic Monthly.

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WARNING
to PROPERTY OWNERS

TODAY a letter came to my desk that deeply impressed me. It was written by a woman—the mother in a typical American family. Her little home had been saved from foreclosure by a coat of new paint, for which a part of their meager savings had been paid.

Those few gallons of fresh paint had so revived the appearance and enhanced the value of the property that the mortgagee had consented to renew the loan . . . and the little home was saved.

I could not help thinking of the thousands of homes and buildings that are shabby and unattractive today due to several years of neglected painting; of the millions of home owners who, because of reduced incomes and enforced economy, have been obliged to sacrifice painting for taxes, interest, assessments, to say nothing of food, clothing, heat and other essentials of comfort and health.

You have seen these paint-starved houses and buildings, as have I. They are everywhere about you. Perhaps your home is included.

Do you understand what they signify? Do you realize what will happen to wood or metal that is literally naked of paint if these houses and buildings face the attack of another season of rain, snow, ice, and frost?

Never in the history of our country has the situation been paralleled. Property owners face an added burden of expense amounting to millions of dollars for repairs and replacements next spring.

And the crisis, in my opinion, will be reached this coming winter when paint of four, five, and even six years exposure to the weather will be unable to resist the elements—when badly weathered wood and metal will be easy prey for rot, rust and decay.

Today the big question facing thousands of property owners is plain. It is "paint or pay." Either you must invest a little this fall in new paint or you must take the risk of

paying many times the cost of paint to repair the damage done by rot, rust and decay this winter.

Even at the sacrifice of other things, have your house or buildings completely repainted now. No investment you can make will pay better dividends. And nothing you can buy will make you and your family feel so uplifted and cheerful.

If you cannot arrange to do a complete repainting job now, at least give the badly weathered places a coat or two of protecting paint.

Look especially, to the window sills, thresholds, outdoor porches and steps; the joints of porch railings and palings; the bases of pillars; the edges of eaves; the roof; the gutters and down spouts. These are the vital spots where water lodges—where ice and frost settle—where rot and rust attack first.

A few dollars' worth of good paint, applied now, will protect these vital spots—will tide you over this crucial winter. And it will probably save you a much greater expense for repairs and replacements next spring and summer.

Under existing conditions, you may be tempted to buy a cheap paint because of its low price. I hope you will not make this costly mistake.

Even on sound lumber, inferior paint is a poor bargain. But on weathered wood, which is very porous, such paint is worse than useless. It gives you a false feeling of security and leaves you without protection.

Prices of well-known, established brands of paint are now the lowest in fifteen years. Enough good, dependable paint can be purchased for a few dollars to protect all the badly weathered surfaces on your building.

Again I repeat, do a complete job this fall if you can. But at least do the vital exposed places before it is "too late."

H. A. Martin
President
THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO.

This message to the property owners of America is sponsored by the following paint manufacturers and their dealers:

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